



# BENIN



## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Patrice TALON

### Head of Government

President Patrice TALON

### Government Type

presidential republic

### Capital

Porto-Novo (constitutional capital); Cotonou (seat of government)

### Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (83 seats)

### Judiciary

Supreme Court (consists of chief justice and 16 justices); Constitutional Court (consists of 7 members, including court president); High Court of Justice (consists of Constitutional Court members, 6 members appointed by the National Assembly, and the Supreme Court president)

### Ambassador to US

Charge d'Affaires Gafari DANGO

### US Ambassador

Ambassador Patricia MAHONEY

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 112,622 sq km

Land: 110,622 sq km

Water: 2,000 sq km

### Climate

tropical; hot, humid in south; semiarid in north

### Natural Resources

small offshore oil deposits, limestone, marble, timber

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

free market economy; cotton a key export commodity, with export earnings significantly impacted by the price of cotton in the broader market; economy began deflating in 2017

### GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$25.39 billion (2017 est.)

### GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$2,300 (2017 est.)

### Exports

\$1.974 billion (2017 est.)

partners: Bangladesh 18.1%, India 10.7%, Ukraine 9%, Niger 8.1%, China 7.7%, Nigeria 7.2%, Turkey 4% (2017)

### Imports

\$2.787 billion (2017 est.)

partners: Thailand 18.1%, India 15.9%, France 8.5%, China 7.5%, Togo 5.9%, Netherlands 4.3%, Belgium 4.3% (2017)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

12.9 million (July 2020 est.)

### Population Growth

3.4% (2020 est.)

### Ethnicity

Fon and related 38.4%, Adja and related 15.1%, Yoruba and related 12%, Bariba and related 9.6%, Fulaini and related 8.6%, Ottamari and related 6.1%, other 10.8% (2013 est.)

### Language

French (official), Fon and Yoruba (most common vernaculars in south), tribal languages (at least six major ones in north)

### Religion

Muslim 27.7%, Roman Catholic 25.5%, Protestant 13.5%, Vodoun 11.6%, other Christian 9.5%, other traditional religions 2.6%, other 2.6%, none 5.8% (2013 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 48.4% of total population (2020)

rate of urbanization: 3.89% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

### Literacy

42.4% (2018)

